



Superfund Program ■ November 30, 1998

Informational Brief for Aerovox Employees

Building Demolition and Capping Plans at Aerovox

Aerovox, Inc., Facility New Bedford, Massachusetts

Why is cleanup needed?

The Aerovox building at 740 Belleville Avenue in New Bedford contains high levels of PCBs. The levels in the building could harm human health and the environment by long-term exposure to PCBs. To protect workers, EPA recommends appropriate cleanup measures to reduce the chances that people could be harmed by the current site situation.

Currently, the major pathway of potential exposure to workers is contact with contaminated surfaces. PCBs are the concern with respect to direct contact and incidental ingestion.

After reviewing the information collected in the 1997 and 1998 investigations, EPA has determined that the levels of PCBs in the facility may represent a hazard that should be addressed.

The Cleanup Proposal...

Based on the levels of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) detected in the building (wall, floors, etc) at the Aerovox facility, EPA proposes the following cleanup plan to reduce risk from site contamination:

- **Clean metal surfaces of the building prior to removal. The "cleaned" metal will be transported to a steel smelting facility.**
- **Demolish the building. The debris will be transported to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.**
- **The first floor concrete slab will remain in place.**
- **The site will be capped to prevent migration of subsurface contamination.**

More details on page 2

What do you think?

EPA would like to hear from you if you have any questions or concerns about PCBs or the proposed remedy for the Aerovox facility.

For questions, please contact:

Kimberly Tisa, Project Manager
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Region I
1 Congress Street
Suite 1100 (CPT)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Phone: (617) 918-1527
Fax: (617) 918-1505

Questions may also be submitted by e-mail to:

TISA.KIMBERLY@epa.gov

New Bedford Records Center

FILE # ALY 000X

DATE 12.5

BY

A Closer Look at EPA's Proposal...

EPA's proposal involves the cleaning, demolition and removal of materials that may represent a threat to public health and the environment. The PCBs in the building represent a direct contact threat to humans and are a potential ecological threat.

The goal of EPA's proposed cleanup is to remove the source of contamination that presents a direct contact threat. A groundwater monitoring system has been in place at the site since the mid 1980's. The system will remain in place and monitoring will continue. The major cleanup activities are described below.

1. *Pre-demolition activities.*

- Conduct additional building characterization to determine materials that require disposal as a PCB waste.
- Clean metal structures and surfaces to reduce PCB concentrations in order to allow for removal and disposal of the material at a steel smelting facility.
- Survey and remove asbestos prior to building demolition.
- Modify and remove utilities.
- Develop plans and procedures for air monitoring, dust control, surface water control, equipment decontamination, waste handling, health & safety and contingency plans.

2. *Demolition.*

- Demolish the facility.
- Ship the debris to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.

3. *Site restoration/cap construction.*

- Design and install a cap for the entire facility, including the area where the building was located.
- Maintain long term cap.

4. *Cost.*

- The total cost of this action is estimated to be 8.3 million.

5. *Schedule.*

- The project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2003.

Why Does EPA Recommend this Alternative?

The EPA recommends a cleanup plan that leaves the first floor concrete slab in place. This alternative:

- Meets three criteria of cost, effectiveness, and implementability, including protecting public health and the environment.
- Provides the same amount of protection for significantly less cost.

Next Steps

In November 1998, EPA expects to have reviewed all comments and signed the action memorandum describing the cleanup plan. The action memorandum and a summary of responses to public comments will be made available to the public at the New Bedford Free Public Library and through the EPA Records Center in Boston. EPA will announce the decision through the local news media and the community mailing list.

What impacts would the cleanup have on the local community?

- ◆ All options disturb the waste and the early action could present short-term risks, so special precautions to minimize dust, and runoff will be taken during the project.
- ◆ Air and other emissions will be monitored.
- ◆ Workers who implement the action will be protected through use of personal protective gear and implementation of proper safety practices.
- ◆ There should not be an increase in traffic during the project as compared to current traffic from the facility.
- ◆ Activities will be conducted during normal business hours.

Site History

The Aerovox Site is a 10 acre parcel located at 740 Belleville Avenue in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The Site is comprised of an approximately 450,000 s.f. manufacturing building with a parking lot located south of the building.

1982: Consent Order entered into between Aerovox and the USEPA under Section 106 of CERCLA and a similar order between Aerovox and the State DEQE, now the MADEP. As a result a site investigation was conducted of an unpaved area at the eastern end and an area to the north of the manufacturing building.

1983-1984: Final remedial action resulting in the capping of the PCB-contaminated soil area, installing a steel sheet pile cutoff wall to serve as a vertical barrier to ground water and tidal flow.

1988: Removal of 2 fuel oil storage tanks and a condensate collection tank from the concrete containment bunker. This action included an assessment of the impacted areas.

1990: Based on the above assessment the following activities were conducted; excavation of the petroleum impacted soils for on-site treatment, construction of an oil-water separator, and post-construction monitoring.

1993: The MADEP determined no further action necessary for the containment bunker remedial project.

1997-1998: Inspection of the building by the USEPA involved the collection of samples from floors inside the manufacturing area of the building. As a result of EPA's findings, Aerovox contractors conducted additional building material, soil and air monitoring investigations. Based on the collective findings EPA approved the initiation of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for a non-time critical removal action.

Scope and Role of this Action

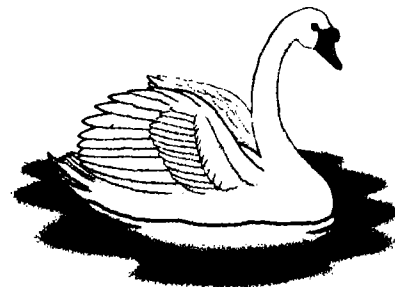
The Superfund law allows EPA to implement cleanup actions under the "removal" or "remedial" authorities specified in the statute. The approach depends on a variety of factors. Removal actions are often used to respond to emergency or time-critical situations.

EPA may, however, perform a removal action at a site when **prompt action is necessary**, but more than 6 months of planning and preparation time is available before on-site cleanup work must begin. Such a removal is called a non-time-critical removal action (NTCRA).

The building contamination at the Aerovox site qualifies for a NTCRA because control of the source material is necessary to protect the environment and community, and to minimize the potential for off-site migration. A study called an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) has been prepared to evaluate different options for controlling the source of contamination.

A NTCRA does not always result in an actual off-site disposal. Instead, a NTCRA may involve various treatment or containment technologies to deal with the contamination on site.

A common theme for NTCRAs is that EPA will generally use this authority to accelerate its response to address the source of contamination at a site. This is consistent with EPA's efforts to speed up Superfund cleanups and make them more timely and efficient. In particular, implementing a NTCRA achieves rapid risk reduction as compared with more traditional Superfund cleanups.



Alternatives for the AEROVOX, INC., Facility

The Aerovox Inc., site Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report reviewed the options EPA considered for cleanup, as well as the EPA's proposed cleanup plan. The options, referred to as "Removal Action Alternatives," are different plans to contain, remove or treat contamination to protect public health and the environment.

EPA welcomes your questions on the proposed cleanup plan as well as the other approaches EPA evaluated. These alternatives are summarized below. Please consult the Aerovox Inc., site EE/CA for more detailed information.

Cleanup Alternatives

Alternative 1: This alternative is the EPA preferred alternative.

- Demolition of the building and disposal of the demolition debris at an appropriate offsite disposal and/or treatment facility.
- Leave the foundation concrete slab in place.
- Cover the building footprint with clean fill and cap the entire site.

Alternative 2:

- Demolition of the building. Demolition debris which does not contain PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm would be placed as backfill within the below-grade portions.
- Remove a portion of the foundation concrete slab.
- Remaining demolition debris shipped to an appropriate offsite disposal and/or treatment facility.
- Cover the building footprint with clean fill and cap the entire site.

Alternative 3:

- Demolition of the building. Demolition debris which does not contain PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm would be placed as backfill within the below-grade portions.
- Remove the entire foundation concrete slab.
- Remaining demolition debris shipped to an appropriate offsite disposal and/or treatment facility.
- Cover the building footprint with clean fill and cap the entire site.